**JUNE 29, 1999** 

SCHAKOWSKY INTRODUCES BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN KUWAIT

RESOLUTION COMMENDS DECISION TO GRANT KUWAITI WOMEN RIGHT TO VOTE AND RUN FOR OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today introduced a bipartisan Congressional Resolution in support of women's rights in Kuwait. The resolution commends Emir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti Cabinet for recognizing the rights of Kuwaiti women to vote and run for the elected national assembly.

Representatives Ben Gilman (R-NY), Chairman of the International Relations Committee, and Sam Gejdenson (D-CT), the ranking Democratic member of the Committee cosponsored the Resolution. Representatives Sue Kelley (R-NY) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Co-chairs of the Bipartisan Women's Caucus, also cosponsored the resolution.

□ "This is a landmark decision and it is important that the United States clearly voices its support for women's rights in the Gulf region and around the world. □ I applaud the Emir and his Cabinet for taking this bold step forward. □ Their action will go a long way to ensuring that Kuwaiti women become full participants in the electoral process," □ Schakowsky said.

☐ "I hope that following the upcoming elections, Kuwait's new Parliament will embrace this honorable decision," she added.☐